

Message Text

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ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 A-01 MMO-04 /032 W

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P 081433Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8494

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4422

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN

SUBJECT: FY-1978 CONSULAR PACKAGE

REF: STATE 167881

1. DO NOT RPT NOT UNDERSTAND WHY DEPT QUOTE UNABLE TO SUPPORT CONSULAR PACKAGE FSL FOR DAMASCUS IN FY-1978 TO ASSIST AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN MAKING TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AND PROVIDING CUSTOMS SERVICES UNQUOTE WHEN WE, IN FACT MENTIONED NO SUCH SERVICES IN OUR CONSULAR PACKAGE. ASSISTANCE WE DISCUSSED WAS LETTERS OF IDENTIFICATION FOR VISA PURPOSES DONE AS NOTARIAL ACT WHICH IS PROPER CONSULAR FUNCTION. IF DEPT IS ALSO SUGGESTING TRANSFER OF CUSTOMS SERVICE TO BUSINESSMEN OUT OF CONSULATE, HOW SHOULD THIS BE DONE BY OTHER SECTIONS OF EMBASSY IF NOTARIAL SERVICE IS ALSO REQUIRED?

2. MENTION OF THESE SERVICES WAS ONLY SMALL PART OF JUSTIFYING ADDITIONAL LOCAL AND WAS TO ILLUSTRATE FACT THAT MANY OF THE SERVICES THAT CAN ONLY BE PERFORMED BY CONSULAR SECTION ARE NOT REFLECTED IN CATEGORIES OF SERVICES LISTED IN CONSULAR PACKAGE. MAIN JUSTIFICATION WE OFFERED FOR ONE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL STARTING FY-1978, ASSUMING LEBANESE CRISIS DOES NOT REQUIRE MORE IMMEDIATE INCREASE IN STAFFING, WAS ON BASIS OF PROJECTED WORKLOAD AND MAN-HOURS TO BE WORKED FOR CATEGORIES OF SERVICES LISTED IN CONSULAR PACKAGE.

3. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND SCA RECONSIDER DECISION AND RECOMMEND ONE ADDITIONAL LOCAL POSITION STARTING FY-78 FOR DAMASCUS.

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MURPHY

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